

Claim 2 (currently amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant ~~viral~~ vector is a ~~retroviral~~ viral vector.

Claim 3 (previously amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant vector is a plasmid vector.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein said population of transfected chondrocytes are stored prior to ~~transplantation~~ injecting the composition.

Claim 5 (previously amended):

The method of claim 4, wherein said population of transfected chondrocytes are stored in 10% DMSO under liquid nitrogen prior to transplantation.

Claims 6-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended):

A method of generating hyaline cartilage, comprising:

- a) generating a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding transforming growth factor $\beta 1$ (TGF- $\beta 1$) operatively linked to a promoter;
- b) transfecting *in vitro* a population of chondrocytes with said recombinant vector, resulting in a population of transfected ~~connective tissue cells~~ chondrocytes; and

c) injecting a composition consisting of the transfected population of chondrocytes and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier into a joint space of a mammal such that expression of the DNA sequence encoding TGF β 1 within the joint space occurs resulting in the generation of hyaline cartilage in the joint space.

Claim 14 (currently amended):

The method of claim 13, wherein ~~said transfection in step b)~~, said transfecting is accomplished by liposome encapsulation, calcium phosphate coprecipitation, electroporation or DEAE-dextran mediation.

Claim 15 (original):

The method of claim 3, wherein said plasmid is pmT β 1.

Claims 16-22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (New):

The method of claim 2, wherein said viral vector is retroviral vector.

Claim 24 (New):

The method of claim 2, wherein said viral vector is adeno-associated viral vector.

Claim 25 (New):

The method of claim 2, wherein said viral vector is adenoviral vector.

Claim 26 (New):

The method of claim 2, wherein said viral vector is herpes simplex viral vector.